



GENERAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT
SPRAT XXIII
October 28 - 30, 2014
Ohio Aerospace Institute
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the return of the Space Photovoltaic Research and Technology (SPRAT) Conference. The 23rd SPRAT Conference, sponsored by the NASA Glenn Research Center, will be held at the Ohio Aerospace Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, from October 28th, through October 30th, 2014. While we had hoped to hold this biennial conference during the fall of 2013, the combined effects of sequestration, the government shutdown, and enhanced government conference travel restrictions forced us to delay the 2013 event. With those hurdles behind us and the recognized need for the space photovoltaic community to gather and share information in this important technology area, we are now ready to continue the SPRAT tradition this fall.

There have been a number of significant advancements in space photovoltaics since the last SPRAT. NASA is pursuing development efforts in very high power solar array technology. New, high efficiency devices are beginning to enter the manufacturing and implementation phases, placing added emphasis on accurate performance measurements and the need for calibrated primary standards. The lines between traditional space and terrestrial PV technology are starting to blur as high efficiency space devices find a place in grid-based systems, and new entrants in the commercial space sector seek lower cost PV options that are based on terrestrial cell technology. We look forward to your participation in this year's event as we strive to cover the wide range of issues and technologies that are important to this community. The General Chair for this year's SPRAT will be Dr. Carolyn R. Mercer of NASA Glenn's Space Technology Project Office. Dr. Mercer is a program manager and has been recently involved in the management and development of advanced power technology for high-power solar electric propulsion missions.

Please reserve these dates on your calendar. Additional information regarding a call for presentations, accommodations, and registration will be forwarded shortly. Please refer to the conference website, <http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/SPRAT/>, for the latest updates. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Madej at (216) 433-2305, barbara.h.madej@nasa.gov.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in Cleveland!

Michael F. Piszczor, Jr.
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